

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-09 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14 USIA-12

OMB-01 AID-20 DPW-01 RSR-01 /102 W
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R 280526 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9258

USDEL FRANCE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 5070

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PINS MILI VS

SUBJECT: MR 2 DAILY SITREP, MAR. 27, 1973

THE FOLLOWING SENT SAIGON FROM NHA TRANG 27 MAR 73 REPEATED
FOR YOIK ACTION. QUOTE:

C O N F I D E N T I A L NHA TRANG 329

E. O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PINT PINS MILI VS

SUBJECT: MR 2 DAILY SIT REP, MAR 27

1. SUMMARY: FIGHTING ABATED SOMEWHAT THIS PERIOD FROM LEVEL
REPORTED ON MAR 26. VC ABF' S ON VHFRIENDLY OP' S CONTINUE
TO BE PREDOMINANT ACTIT . SIXTY- FOUR MEN OF KONTUM RF COMPANY
(NHA TRANG 326) STILL MISSING. ICCS REGION IV CANDEL BEGINS
TWO- MONTHS PER SITE ROTATION SCHEME.
VILLAGE ELECTIONS SCHEDAUED IN TUYEN DUC, IINH THUAN, BINH DINH
AND PHU BON.

BQM MILITARY SITUATION: AFTER UNUSUALLY HIGH NUMBER OF CASUALTIES
REPORTED YESTERDAY, MILITARY SITUATION IN MR 2 LEVELED OFF
SLIGHTLY IN LAST 24 HOURS. VC LOSSES THIS PERUHD RESULTED
ENTIRELY FROM RVNAF REACTION TO VC- INITIATED GROUND ATTACKS;
FRIENDLY LOSSES STEMMED PRIMARILY FROM ABF' S.

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3. MILITARY ACTION REMAINED HIGH IN BINH XUNH, PARTICULARLY IN NORTHERN DISTRICTS, BUT PLEIKU SAW EVEN MORE ACTION, MOST OF IT CENTERED IN LE THANH DISTRICT WHEREABOUTS FRIENDLY TROOPS REPORTED WIA

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SCATTERED ABF AND MINS INCIDENTS. MOST SERIOUS SINGLE INCIDENT IN MR 2 DURING REPORTING PERIOD OCCURRED, HOWEVER, IN BINH THUAN PROVINCE WHEN VC ATTACKED ANSRF POSITION IN THIEN GIAO DISTRICT. HELICOPTER SUPPORT WAS SUMMONED; TEN VC REPORTED KIA.

4. AS OF PRESENT TIME, 11 MEMBERS OF BESIEGED RF COMPANY IN SOUTHERN TUM (NHA TRANG 326, MAR 26 SIT REP) HAVE DRIFTED BACK TO GVN POSITIONS, STILL IN POSSESSION OF THEIR WEAPONS AND AMMUNITION. NO WORK YET ON FATE OF REMAINDER OF UNIT; 64 MEMBERS STILL MISSING.

5. ICCS: CANDEL CHIEF IN PHAN THIET HAS CONFIRMED THAT CANADIAN TEAM

IN TRUCE REGION IV WILL BEGIN A SYSTEM OF ROTATION AT END OF MONTH. SYSTEM AS ADOPTED PROVIDES FOR 60-DAY TOURS, WITH ONE CANDEL ARRIVING AND ANOTHER DEPARTING EACH SITE EVERY 30 DAYS. THIS IS LESS DISRUPTIVE SCHEDULE THAN 16-DAY CANDEL ROTATION PERIOD OF REGION

GEI ICCS, BUT REGION IV HAS NO ISOLATED OUTPOSTS TO MATCH DUC CO AND BEN HET.

6. PW'S: DEBRIEFING OF RVNAF PRISONERS RELEASED IN AN LAO VALLEY BINH DINH, MAR 10-11 INDICATES NONE OF THEM SAW ANY US PW'S DURING THEIR CAPTIVITY (REF NHA TRANG 158 MAR 15 SIT REP, AND 306).

7. GVN POLITICAL ORGANIZING: SEVERAL MORE PROVINCES HAVE DETERMINED

VILLAGE ELECTION SCHEDULES. IN BINH DINH, 56 HTF 96 VILLAGES WILL HOLD ELECTIONS, MOST OF THEM IN MAY; IN NINH THUAN, 25 VILLAGES, FROM LATE APRIL THROUGH EARLY JUNE; IN PHU BON, 14 VILLAGES, OF WHICH 13 WILL ELECT IN JUNE AND ONE IN OCT. TUYEN DUC PC MEANWHILE CLAIMED TO ARRO REP THAT IT WAS HIS SUGGESTION AT MAR 6 MEETING WITH THIEU THAT PROMPTED GVN DECISION TO RESUME ELECTIONS IN SECURE AREAS, WITH PROVINCE AUTHORITIES DECIDING WHICH VILLAGES. TUYEN DUC WILL HOLD MOST OF ITS ELECTIONS (NUMBER NOT SPECIFIED) IN MAY. PC ADDS THAT IN AUTONOMOUS CITIES, MAYORS WILL CONTINUE TO APPOINT WARD CHIEFS; PC PLANS TO APPOINT ARVN CAPTAINS AS WARD CHIEFS IN DALAT, EVIDENTLY TO REPLACE CIVILIAN INCUMBENTS.

8. NON-ADMINISTRATIVE POLITICAL ACTIVITY: CHAIRMAN OF PHU BON
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GREATER SOLIDARITY FORCE TOLD POLOFF HE WAS GREATLY ENCOURAGED TO
LEARN OF FOUNDING OF FREEDOM PARTY (FP). GSF WOULD SUPPORT FP IN
NATIONAL ELECTIONS IF ASKED, BUT CONSIDERS ITS REAL ROLE IS TO JOIN
WITH GVN IN ANTI- COMMUNIST STRUGGLE.

ENGLE.

BBUNQUOTE.

BUNKER

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